

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AID-05  
CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 STR-06 TRSE-00 LAB-04  
SIL-01 OMB-01 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 DOE-11 SOE-02 OES-07  
/142 W

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O 201309Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4380

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION USNATO

USINT HAVANA

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ALSO FOR USEEC

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, AO, CU, BE

SUBJECT: ANGOLAN AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM'S FIRST PRESS  
CONFERENCE AND CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: A) 77 BRUSSELS 16758 (NOTAL),

B) 77 BRUSSELS 13378 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY - NEW ANGOLAN AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM AND EC IN HIS FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS, DISCUSSED ANGOLAN "NON-ALIGNMENT," HIS MISSION IN EUROPE, CUBA'S ROLE IN ANGOLA, WHY A MARXIST-LENINIST PARTY STRUCTURE, AND ANGOLA'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS FOREIGN INVESTMENT. ALSO CALLS ON FOREIGN MINISTER. AGREEMENT REACHED ON POSTING OF BELGIAN AMBASSADOR IN LUANDA. END SUMMARY.

2. IN HIS FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE SINCE TAKING UP HIS POST IN NOVEMBER, THE NEW ANGOLAN AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM AND THE E.C., LUIS JOSE DE ALMEIDA, TOLD PRESS THAT "NON-ALIGNMENT" IS ONE OF THE BASES OF ANGOLAN FOREIGN POLICY AND THAT BELGIUM WAS CHOSEN AS AN EMBASSY SITE, ALONG WITH ITALY AND YUGOSLAVIA, TO "SERVE AS A BRIDGEHEAD FOR RELATIONS WITH A CERTAIN NUMBER OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES." STRESSING HIS FORMER JOURNALIST CREDENTIALS, HE SAID THAT ANGOLA HAS A BAD PRESS IN WESTERN EUROPE AND THAT EUROPEANS ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY WELL INFORMED ABOUT ANGOLA'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND WORLD VIEW. HE SPOKE OF THE "TRAITOROUS" ACTION OF UNITA AND FLNA IN BRINGING SOUTH AFRICAN AND ZAIRIAN TROOPS ON ANGOLA SOIL, AND SAID THAT CUBANS HAD INTERVENED "AT THE REQUEST OF THE

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ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT" WHEN OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES DID NOT REACT TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN "INVASION." THANKS TO THAT CUBAN AID AND TO SOVIET MATERIEL, ANGOLA IS TODAY A SOVEREIGN NATION AND HAS "ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL ARMIES IN AFRICA." THE PRESENT CUBAN ROLE IN ANGOLA IS TO HELP ANGOLA PREPARE TO FACE "FUTURE AGGRESSIONS," AS WELL AS TO AID IN THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE NATION (PUBLIC HEALTH, ROAD AND BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION).

3. IN RESPONSE TO A REPORTER'S QUESTION AS TO WHY THE MPLA HAD BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A MARXIST LENINIST PARTY AT THE LAST PARTY CONGRESS, DE ALMEIDA REPLIED THAT ONLY AN "IDEOLOGICALLY HOMOGENEOUS PARTY STRUCTURE" IS CAPABLE OF BRINGING TO FRUITION THE DEVELOPMENTAL TASKS OF THE COUNTRY. HE CITED AS PRIORITY SECTORS: AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION, PETROLEUM, TRANSPORTATION, AND FISHING. HE SAID THE "PUBLIC SECTOR" OF THE ECONOMY IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE THE "PORTUGUESE ABANDONED EVERYTHING," BUT POINTED OUT THAT FOREIGN COMPANIES HAVE INVESTED IN ANGOLA, CITING GULF, TEXACO, PETROFINA (BELGIAN) AND SOCIETE GENERALE

(BELGIAN). HE SAID THAT ANGOLA ASKS FOREIGN INVESTORS FIRST OF ALL TO RESPECT THE INTERESTS OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE, AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE GOVERNMENT PREFERENCES MIXED ENTERPRISES LIKE DIAMANG, WHERE THE ANGOLAN STATE HAS 61 OF THE STOCK AND FOREIGN COMPANIES THE REST (REFTEL B).

4. DE ALMEIDA DECLARED THAT ANGOLA NEEDS ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL, AND PORTUGAL NEEDS ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA, BUT WARNED THAT FORMER COLONISTS IN PORTUGAL ARE CARRYING ON A SYSTEMATIC PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST HIS COUNTRY. HE ALSO CHARGED THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT WITH SEEKING TO PREVENT EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMO-

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CRATIC GOVERNMENTS FROM HAVING RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA.  
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5. THE BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY'S NEW AFRICAN DESK OFFICER (VAN OVERBERGHE) GAVE US A READ OUT JANUARY 18 ON AMBASSADOR DE ALMEIDA'S FIRST CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER HENRI SIMONET JANUARY 13. VAN OVERBERGHE SAID THE TWO TALKED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ABOUT THE QUESTION OF BELGIAN DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN LUANDA. DE ALMEIDA EXPRESSED "REGRET" THAT AGREEMENT FOR A BELGIAN AMBASSADOR IN LUANDA HAD LANGUISHED FOR SO LONG WITHOUT A RESPONSE, WITH THE RESULT THAT THE CANDIDATE HAS BEEN REASSIGNED (GUILLOT-PINGUE, NOW BELGIAN AMBASSADOR IN ALGIERS). DE ALMEIDA STRESSED THAT THIS DELAY WAS NOT INTENDED AS A SLIGHT TO BELGIUM BUT WAS CAUSED SOLELY BY THE TOTALLY DISORGANIZED STATE OF THE ANGOLAN FOREIGN MINISTRY AFTER THE END OF THE CIVIL WAR, THERE BEING ONLY SIX QUALIFIED PEOPLE IN THE MINISTRY. TO SIMONET'S SUGGESTION THAT THE CURRENT BELGIAN CHARGE IN LUANDA (LECOMTE) STAY ON AND BE ELEVATED TO RANK OF AMBASSADOR, DE ALMEIDA EXPRESSED HIGH REGARD FOR LECOMTE BUT UNDERLINED THAT ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT INSISTED ON A FULL AMBASSADOR. SIMONET AGREED AND TOLD DE ALMEIDA THAT HE WOULD BEGIN REVIEWING CANDIDATES FOR THE LUANDA JOB AND WANTED THE NEW AMBASSADOR IN PLACE BY THE START OF SIMONET'S TRIP TO ANGOLA, MOZAMBIQUE AND TANZANIA, WHICH WOULD TAKE PLACE EITHER IN APRIL OR MAY.

6. VAN OVERBERGHE ALSO TOLD US THAT LECOMTE RECENTLY REPORTED FROM LUANDA THAT ANGOLAN, ZAMBIAN AND ZAIRIAN AUTHORITIES WOULD BE MEETING SHORTLY IN LUSAKA TO DISCUSS THE OPENING OF THE BENGUELA RAILROAD. OLSEN  
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## Message Attributes

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